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A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Four hundred and fifteen karnams and 19 headmen were in receipt of Rs. 15 and more each per mensem before the minimum pay of village officers was raised to Rs. 15 per mensem.

The comparatively large beriz, the size and the importance of the villages concerned account for the higher pay in the case of these officers.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

22-A *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a leading article in the issue of the *Madras Mail* of Saturday the 8th December 1923, wherein it is stated that His Excellency the Governor is sending back to the Council the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill for reconsideration on the hon. the Chief Minister's advice and whether the statement is correct ?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" Sir, in sending the message to the Legislative Council about the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, His Excellency the Governor decided to take the step in consultation with me and with my approval."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know at what time the hon. the Chief Minister and his colleagues were consulted by His Excellency the Governor ? "

(No reply.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Sir, I would, with your permission, put another question since the previous question has not been answered. I should like to know from the hon. the Chief Minister as to when he was consulted by His Excellency the Governor with regard to the sending of the gracious message given yesterday. Again, Sir, I wish to know if the hon. the Chief Minister knew of this intention of His Excellency the Governor at the time the hon. the Chief Minister replied to the No-Confidence Motion in this House. Sir, I wish also to ask the hon. the Chief Minister whether, in view of the statement that he has now made and in view of the terms of the message of His Excellency, he still considers it consistent with the dignity of his office and the dignity of this Council that he ought to continue as Minister. "

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" Sir, I should like to put a few supplementary questions arising out of the answer given by the hon. the Chief Minister. I would like to know on what date the hon. the Chief Minister was consulted and on what date he gave his advice or expressed his approval That is very important and I do not think that is a supplementary question. . . ."

The hon. the President :—" If it is not a supplementary question, the hon. Member is out of order."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" Sir, I was going to say 'which requires notice.' Because, this is a thing which must be within the personal knowledge of the hon. the Chief Minister and he owes it to this House that he should give a reply in such matters. That is my submission, Sir."

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I do not think it is necessary that I should answer this question."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, there are some other points also on which I should like to know what view the hon. the Chief Minister takes. That is, whether it is not a fact that with regard to this Bill the Government of India sent a despatch, and the Madras Government also sent a despatch. Was any suggestion made in that reply that this Bill, either in part or in whole, would be referred back for the reconsideration of this House ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I rather think that these questions do not at all arise out of Question No. 22-A. Question 22-A simply asks the Chief Minister to state whether his attention has been drawn to a leading article in the issue of the *Madras Mail* of Saturday, etc., and whether the statement made therein is correct. He has answered both these questions. Now, the hon. Member goes on and wants some information about the correspondence between the Governments of Madras and of India. Surely, that is not a supplementary question."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, my humble submission is this : The hon. the Chief Minister now confesses that he gave a certain advice to His Excellency with regard to the gracious message which was delivered by you yesterday. Now, it is very important for us who are trying to understand the constitutional position adopted by the hon. the Chief Minister, to know on what date such advice was given and whether there was any indication previous to that, that he would be prepared to take the course now adopted. My submission is that you, Sir, lay down certain rules with regard to the legislative procedure ; and if the hon. the Chief Minister who is supposed to have the confidence that he is supposed to have enjoyed, could give His Excellency this advice, viz., that a certain measure for which he is supposed to have enjoyed the entire confidence of the former House would be referred back to this House, then this House, with due submission, may claim to exercise the same right. Sir, what I am trying to show is that the hon. the Chief Minister's position is untenable."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We cannot have a general debate with regard to that matter."

British Empire Exhibition.

22-B Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money so far spent by the Government on the British Empire Exhibition of 1924, and

(*b*) the amount of money which, according to present calculation, will have to be spent hereafter on the said Exhibition ?

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" The amount already spent is Rs. 55,461 and the amount that is expected to be spent is Rs. 2,53,039."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the hon. the Minister quite certain as to the figures ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" That is what I gather from the office records."